19th December 1953]

Petition from Communist prisoners in Madurai Central Jail.

* 139-E *Q.*—SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government had received recently any petition from Communist prisoners in Madurai Central Jail about treatment to political prisoners; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action are the Government taking on the petition?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir; the requests made in the petition are being examined."

Firing incident at Mattanchery.

* 140 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any officer or police of this State had any connection or part in the firing incident at Mattanchery on 15th September 1953 and in the subsequent events?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" No, Sir. No police officer of this State took part in the firing incident at Mattanchery on the 15th September 1953 or in the subsequent events."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—" Is it a fact that the police of Fort Cochin were standing by and giving encouragement to the Mattanchery Police when the firing took place? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" If the places were very near, I suppose, they must be standing by."

Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur.

* 141 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether he has received a memorandum, dated 17th August 1953, from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., requesting the Government to raise the Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government Hospital and to increase the beds in the hospital and allot more money to the hospital for medicines; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Yes. The matter is under consideration."

SRI **K. P. GOPALAN**:—" സാർ, പയ്യന്നൂർ ആസ്പത്രിക്കു ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് മരുന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് 3,000 ക.ക്കാണു്. ഈ 3,000 ക. യിൽ ഒരായിരം ഉറുപ്പികയോളം റെയിൽവെ ഫ്രെയിററായി പോകുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ മരുന്നിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഒരു സംഖ്യ അടിയന്തിരമായി ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് നീക്കിവെക്കുമോ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" It is the responsibility of the district board as it is a local fund hospital."